

REMARKS

Preliminarily, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the personal interview conducted on July 1, 2008. Applicant believes that the interview was helpful in advancing the prosecution of this application. A Statement of Substance of Interview is submitted herewith.

I. Status of Claims

Upon entry of the Amendment, which is respectfully requested, claims 3-14 will be pending in the application.

Claim 14 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2 and to delete the recitation of spirally winding the extruded coating rubber onto a rotating support.

Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

No new matter is added.

II. Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that there are the following three areas of indefiniteness in the claims: (1) that methods (2) and (3) in Claim 14 do not appear to be different;

(2) that the claims may not include the formation of normal angled (e.g., $\pm 21^\circ$) belts; and

(3) that the term "tire shaping" in method (3) refers to any of the steps in the formation of the green tire.

With respect to item (1), Applicant respectfully traverses.

Applicant respectfully submits in step (2) the coating of the small-width band shaped body of a single steel cord or a plurality of steel cords occurs previously, whereas in step (3) the

coating occurs during the tire shaping. Accordingly, there is a distinction between the claim steps.

With respect to item (2), Applicant respectfully submits that upon amendment, the §112 rejection of claim 14 will be overcome, as claim 14 will no longer recite the “spiral winding” method.

With respect to item (3), Applicant submits that the term “tire shaping” refers to “any of the steps in the formation of the green tire”, as mentioned by the Examiner, or, more precisely, “any of the steps prior to the formation of the belt layer in the formation of the green tire”. Furthermore, the definition of the term “tire shaping” was discussed with the Examiner on July 1, 2008, and further amendment was not deemed necessary at this point.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112, second paragraph rejection of claims 3-14.

III. Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Claims 6-8 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over GB 1,487,426 to Bekaert taken in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,394,919 to Sandstrom et al. or U.S. Patent No. 4,239,663 to Ravagnani and optionally further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,722,977 to Fischer.

B. Claims 2-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bekaert et al. in view of EP 481080 to Nakagawa et al. and optionally further in view of Fischer and (for Claims 2 and 9-13 only) optionally further in view of at least one of [U.S. Patent No. 4,615,369 to Sharma and U.S. Patent No. 5,871,597 to Vasseur].

C. Claims 3-8 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bekaert taken in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0,221,760 to Grimberg et al. or U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0,088,522 to Uchino et al. and optionally further in view of Fischer.

Applicant respectfully traverses.

The rejections should be withdrawn because the cited references do not disclose or render obvious the method of producing a pneumatic tire of the present invention.

Upon entry of the present Amendment, independent claim 14 will recite a method of producing a pneumatic tire comprising a rubber member having a given sectional shape wherein the rubber composition has an additional characteristic of having a tensile stress at 100% elongation of not less than 5 MPa and an elongation at break of not less than 200% as rubber properties after the vulcanization. Applicant submits that the cited art does not teach or suggest such a rubber composition.

Therefore, the characteristics of the presently claimed rubber render claim 14 patentable.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejections of claims 3-14.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

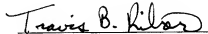
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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Travis B. Ribar
Registration No. 61,446